

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The antecedent basis for the first and second chambers has been added to pages 5 and 10 of the specification.

Claims 1 and 23 stand rejected as anticipated by the patent to Albers et al (Albers) while claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 26 and 27 stand rejected as obvious over this reference in view of Whitford.

In response, applicant has amended claim 1 and cancelled claim 23 so that these rejections are believed obviated for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 distinguishes the invention from the references of record in both a novel and unobviousness sense. In particular and as pointed out in the last response, claim 1 specifies that the recited ones of the seal lands and the nonrotating structure define a first chamber which is permanently connected to one of the pressure zones and a second chamber is defined by the connecting means and the first and second seal lands with these elements being imperforate so that these chambers are always isolated from each other. Claim 1 positively recites the connection by way of exposure to a source of pressure and this is not the case in Albers.

In the Advisory action, the Examiner commented that, in Albers, the elements corresponding to applicant's first and second chambers is found in Albers. As described at column 3, the chamber defined by ring 20a, sleeve 21 and the packing ring 3 and housing 4 could define a "chamber" or "zone". However, applicant believes that there is no disclosure of two different pressure zones or areas of differing pressures in this reference. It is separated from the high pressure by the ring 3. The low pressure is not presented to this chamber by the same elements. Moreover, there is no second seal or one that is exposed to any low pressure. Since the ring 20c abuts the sleeve 21, there can not be any first chamber between housing 4 and one of the rings 20a or 20b and none is shown or described in this reference.

The reference to "bores 8" in the remarks of the amendment filed July 20, 2004, but not entered, was an inadvertent typographical error. The reference should have been only to bores 23 through which sealing fluid is supplied and discharged (col. 3, lines 18-23 of Albers). Thus, while the rings 20a, 20b and 20c could define a second chamber, none of these are imperforate in Albers as expressly claimed here as they plainly are in communication by means of the bores 23 and unnumbered bores for rings 20c and 20b for one or more sealing fluids (Albers specification, col. 2, lines 18-30) for none of which is a sealing pressure described.

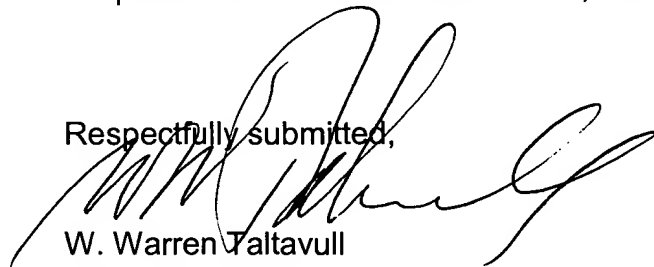
In Albers, the gaps 1a, 1b are measured and then the current supplied to the magnet is altered to control the attractive force for the material 34. This moves the ring 20 to adjust the size of the gaps 1a, 1b. In contrast, in the present invention, the two seals are balanced by leakage of pressure from the high pressure chamber to the low pressure chamber through the seals. It does not appear possible for any flow from any higher pressure area to any lower pressure area in Albers due to the presence of a sealing fluid. Here a flexibly mounted yoke is used and now expressly claimed. There is no balancing of seal fluid.

Whitford does not supply the teachings absent in Albers as it simply discloses the use of magnets in a seal. Thus, there is no yoke, connecting means for the magnets or any suggestion of using an imperforate connecting means portion or seal lands to isolate the first and second chambers.

The unapplied references do not appear to warrant any further comments.

Having addressed each of the points set out in the Office action, favorable reconsideration is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Warren Taltavull
Reg. No. 25647